

South Fork Merced River Bridge Replacement
Environmental Assessment

Yosemite National Park

Lead Agency: National Park Service

ABSTRACT

This *South Fork Merced River Bridge Replacement Environmental Assessment* is intended to guide the removal and replacement of the South Fork Bridge. The project and its environmental assessment, which evaluates the potential impacts of the project, are integrated in this document and are referred to collectively as the South Fork Merced River Bridge Replacement Project. The *South Fork Merced River Bridge Replacement Environmental Assessment* identifies and analyzes two alternatives: Alternative 1 – the No Action Alternative; and Alternative 2 – replace South Fork Bridge (the Preferred Alternative).

Alternative 1, the No Action Alternative, represents conditions and management practices as they currently exist at the South Fork Bridge. It provides the basis for comparison of Alternative 2. Alternative 2 is based on the Purpose Of and Need For the Project and conforms to the goals of Yosemite National Park's *General Management Plan* and goals and management elements of the *Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan*. Alternative 2 provides for the complete removal of the existing South Fork Bridge and replacement with a single-span bridge. The temporary Bailey bridge and road access (placed in 1998 to carry Wawona Road traffic after condemnation of the South Fork Bridge) would be removed upon completion of the bridge replacement project.

Written comments regarding this document should be directed to:

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Written comments will also be accepted at the National Park Service planning open houses held on April 23, 2003 and May 26, 2003 (2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.) at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center East Auditorium. Planning teams will be on hand to answer questions and provide more information regarding the South Fork Merced River Bridge Replacement Project, as well as several other Yosemite National Park planning efforts.

The document can be reviewed online at www.nps.gov/yose/planning. To request a printed copy, refer to the information directly above or phone 209/379- 1365.

If individuals submitting comments request that their name and/or address be withheld from public disclosure, it will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Such requests must be stated prominently in the beginning of the comments. There also may be circumstances wherein the National Park Service will withhold a respondent's identity as allowable by law. As always, the National Park Service will make available to public inspection all submissions from organizations or businesses and from persons identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations and businesses; and anonymous comments may not be considered.